

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) An IC card reader/writer comprising:

receiving means that receives a signal transmitted from an IC card and ~~including~~includes data in predetermined processing units to be transmitted with a protection period held therebetween,

signal level checking means that, in the case when said receiving means receives said data in said predetermined processing units, checks the level of said signal in a predetermined period after a predetermined reception period for receiving said data, ~~and~~

retransmission request means that discards said data in said predetermined processing units and requests said IC card to retransmit data having the same content as that of said discarded data when said signal level checking means detects a predetermined level at least in the whole or parts of said signal in said predetermined period, and

a Protocol Type Selection (PTS) flag identifying a transmission protocol for said IC card that is set by the receiving means only when said IC card can retransmit said data in character units, wherein

said retransmission request means requests said IC card to retransmit said received data when said signal level checking means has detected said predetermined signal level in said predetermined period and said PTS flag has been set.

7. (Original) The IC card reader/writer in accordance with claim 6, wherein said signal level checking means detects the level of said signal of the minimum unit in said predetermined period immediately after said reception period.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The IC card reader/writer in accordance with claim 6 or 7, further comprising a frame violation flag that is set when said signal level checking means detects said predetermined signal level in said predetermined period.

10. (Original) The IC card reader/writer in accordance with claim 6 or 7, further comprising:

a frame violation detection counter that counts the number of times said predetermined signal is detected in said predetermined period by said signal level checking means,

a retransmission request number register that determines the maximum of the number of times said predetermined signal is detected, and

comparing means that compares the number of times counted by said frame violation detection counter with the value of said retransmission request number register, wherein

when the number of times said predetermined signal is detected in said predetermined period has reached a predetermined number of said retransmission request number register as the result of the comparison by said comparing means, said retransmission request means does not request retransmission of data having the same character as that of said received data.

11. (Original) The IC card reader/writer in accordance with claim 10, further comprising a retransmission request state register that notifies that the number of times said

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predetermined signal level is detected in said predetermined period has reached the number determined in said retransmission request number register.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)